(c) the details of provisions made for promoting private fertilizer producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government has introduced new pricing scheme for urea units *w.e.f.* 1-4-2003 replacing the Retention Price Scheme. The new scheme will be implemented in Stages. Stage-I will be of one year duration, from 1-4-2003 to 31-3-2004. Stage-II will be of two years duration, from 1-4-2004 to 31-3-2006. Modalities for subsequent stages will be decided after review of Stage I and II. The new policy aims at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disburserment to urea units and to inducing urea manufacturers to take cost reduction measures and be competitive. The new scheme also moots decontrol in distribution of urea. During Stage-I of the scheme, the allocation of urea under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 will be restricted to 75% and 50% of the production capacity of each unit in Kharif 2003 and Rabi 2003-2004, respectively. During Stage-II, urea distribution will be totally decontrolled after having evaluated Stage-I.

The new scheme is applicable to all the existing urea units, whether they are in public sector, private sector or cooperative sector.

Proposal for wage revision on BVFCL

3753. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) implementation status of the proposal for wage revision of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited and target set to clear; and

(b) viability status of this company in this globalized market and action taken for its survivality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The management of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited had submitted a proposal for implementation of wage revision based on 1997 scales of pay. This proposal is under examination and its approval is subject to generation of adequate internal resources for meeting the additional financial implication as well as the long term viability of the enterprise.

(b) The revised cost of revamp project of BVFCL has been approved in 2002 by the Government based on the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of 22.72%.

Prices of fertilizers

†3754. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to reduce the prices of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Increase in the sale prices of fertilizers made effective from 28-2-2003 has already been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 12-3-2003.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.